

## EDITOR'S MISCELLANY



### THE VAN RENSSELAER BUILDING FOR NURSES AT ALBANY

THE Van Rensselaer building, at 2 Delaware Avenue, Albany, N. Y., intended as a head-quarters for trained nurses, was opened for occupancy February 1, 1902. There has long been a need in Albany for some centrally located place where nurses could be communicated with at short notice.

Although Albany's acquaintance with the trained nurse can almost be said to have begun with the organizing of the Training-School for Nurses in connection with the Albany City Hospital in 1896, there is no place where she is more valued at this time, and the demand for her service is constantly growing. As Albany has the only large training-school in this part of the State, there are many calls for nurses from the adjoining towns, and to meet the increasing demand a second training-school has recently been started at St. Peter's Hospital.

Another feature in the development of trained nursing in Albany has been the Albany Guild for the care of the Sick Poor that in 1889 established a system of district nursing, which now employs four trained nurses and a staff of assistants. Impetus was given to the profession and its interests by the first meeting of the New York State Association of Nurses, held in Albany in April, 1901, to plan for legislation by which to gain a higher standard for the nursing profession of the State. At this meeting the association of Graduate Nurses of Northern New York, organized in Albany a short time before, was represented.

This summarizes the development of trained nursing in Albany, from which a head-quarters for nurses has been the outgrowth.

The Van Rensselaer Building was the project of Dr. Howard Van Rensselaer, who, on land owned by him and facing Dana Park, erected a handsome, modern, fully-equipped apartment-house especially designed for the accommodation of nurses. It is a four-story house built of limestone and brick, patterned in Flemish bond. The ground floor is devoted to stores, the remaining three stories to apartments, there being two suits of rooms on each floor, which in turn can be separated into single rooms or used coöperatively by a group of nurses. Each suite of rooms has a kitchen with stationary tubs, gas range, and a piazza in the rear; there are also chutes leading into the cellar for garbage, etc. An instantaneous gas water-heater provides water for the bathroom. Each sleeping-room has ample closet space. The building is heated by hot water throughout. Each room has at least one large window facing on an avenue. The floors and woodwork throughout are of hard wood. There is a central stairway, air-shaft, and freight elevator, and a storage-room for each suite in the cellar.

This building is located on almost the highest ground in the city, with fine views from the upper windows; and in the summer the roof can be converted into a roof-garden, from which glimpses may be had of the Hudson River, the Helderbergs, Berkshires, and Catskills, and lovely sunsets viewed. The Albany Guild nurses occupy the fourth floor. Already a number of the other rooms have been taken by nurses, and no doubt, had the building been finished at a more seasonable time, all of the rooms would have been readily rented, and after May 1 the building will unquestionably be filled. One of the stores has been

rented as a bakery, where, in addition to the articles usually sold, there are on sale tea, coffee, milk, eggs, porridge, hot baked beans, etc., in case tenants do not wish to cook breakfast or supper. The Van Rensselaer is convenient to the city hospitals and to the other city institutions, with street-car connections with all parts of the city. A registry for the nurses is hoped for in the near future for the mutual convenience of doctors and nurses, and a telephone with an attendant.

FLORENCE E. POOLE.

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#### WORK AMONG THE WOMEN OF ITALY

AN attempt to train Italian women for positions as nurses has been made at Florence, where Miss Baxter, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore, and Miss Turton, an English trained nurse, have opened a "Casa di Cura." As its name implies, this is, first of all, a small hospital, a necessary adjunct in any training-school for nurses. In the double work of this institution the laws of right living will receive an emphasis as yet inadequately conveyed in Italy. Another attempt has been made at Turin, the capital of Piedmont, where at the Protestant hospital the Waldensians have just established a training-school for nurses and deaconesses.—*Public Opinion*, January 2, 1902.

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#### A TOUCHING STORY OF QUEEN VICTORIA

At the opening meeting of the Gordon League, Mr. Harold Boulton, who narrated the history of the establishment and progress of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, said that the late Queen a very short while before her death visited a military hospital and asked one man who had been terribly mutilated in a South African battle if there were anything she could do for him. "Only to thank the nurse," was the soldier's faint answer, and the Queen gravely laid her hand on the Victoria nurse's shoulder and said, "I thank you, my daughter, for your goodness to my son."—*The Hospital*.

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#### CARDINAL GIBBONS'S OPINION OF NURSES

IN his address to the first graduating class of the Baltimore City Training-School for Nurses, which is under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy, Cardinal Gibbons said:

"My dear young ladies of the Training-School, you have adopted a career the most honorable and useful any young woman could select. You put to shame those fashionable women who are daily worshipping at the shrine of idleness and pleasure. It is true you cannot, like our blessed Redeemer, work miracles by giving sight to the blind or strength to the paralyzed limb, but you can work miracles of grace and mercy by relieving the suffering of your fellow-beings, and never do you perform an act more pleasing to God than when you alleviate the corporeal affliction of a fellow-creature."

